

# Claims

- [c1] A device for operating a deadbolt comprising:
  - a shaft;
  - a shaft housing including an opening for receiving said shaft;
  - corresponding depressions and protuberances in said shaft and said opening for receiving said shaft;
  - whereby said corresponding depressions and protuberances can be selectively placed in an interlocking relationship to prevent operation of said deadbolt.
- [c2] The device of claim 1, wherein said shaft includes four sections, a head portion, a camming portion, a signal portion and a mounting portion.
- [c3] The device of claim 2, wherein said camming portion of said shaft includes eight side sections, four including at least one camming surface and four including at least two camming surfaces.
- [c4] The device of claim 1, further comprising at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms.
- [c5] The device of claim 4, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a lock

cylinder.

- [c6] The device of claim 4, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a knob.
- [c7] The device of claim 4, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a combination dial.
- [c8] The device of claim 1 further comprising an indication mechanism located on a portion of said shaft.
- [c9] The device of claim 8, wherein said indication mechanism comprises a colored ring.
- [c10] The device of claim 8, wherein said indication mechanism comprises a colored section of said shaft.
- [c11] The device of claim 1 further comprising a detent mechanism that applies force against a section of said shaft.
- [c12] The device of claim 1, wherein said depressions are located on a head portion of said shaft and said protuberances are located on a collar on said shaft housing.
- [c13] An operating device for a locking mechanism comprising:  
an assembly that can be selectively engaged to prevent operation of said locking mechanism; and

an indication mechanism that indicates when said assembly has been engaged to prevent operation of said locking mechanism.

[c14] The device of claim 13, wherein said assembly includes a shaft, wherein said shaft includes four sections, a head portion, a camming portion, a signal portion and a mounting portion.

[c15] The device of claim 14, wherein said camming portion of said shaft includes eight side sections, four including at least one camming surface and four including at least two camming surfaces.

[c16] The device of claim 13, further comprising at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms.

[c17] The device of claim 16, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a lock cylinder.

[c18] The device of claim 16, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a knob.

[c19] The device of claim 16, wherein at least one of said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a combination dial.

[c20] The device of claim 16, wherein at least one of said two

deadbolt manipulation mechanisms has both a combination dial and a key cylinder.

[c21] The device of claim 13, wherein said indication mechanism comprising a colored collar located on a shaft.

[c22] The device of claim 8, wherein said indication mechanism comprises a colored section of a shaft.

[c23] A deadbolt mechanism comprising:  
(a) a deadbolt;  
(b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and  
(c) a lockout mechanism comprising:  
(i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanism, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and  
(ii) a shaft housing including an opening for receiving said shaft and a collar surrounding at least a portion of said opening;  
wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage one or more portions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

[c24] The deadbolt mechanism of claim 23 further comprising

an indication mechanism located on said shaft, wherein said indication mechanism indicated whether or not said head portion is nested within said collar.

[c25] A deadbolt mechanism comprising:  
a deadbolt;  
at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, wherein at least one of said deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a knob and at least one of said deadbolt manipulation mechanisms includes a locking mechanism;  
a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft comprising an indication mechanism and a head portion including a set of depressions; and  
a shaft housing including an opening for receiving said shaft and a collar, said collar including a set of protuberances;  
whereby said set of depressions and said set of protuberances can be selectively placed in an interlocking relationship to prevent operation of said deadbolt and said indication mechanism provides visual indication as to whether or not said set of depressions and said set of protuberances are in interlocking relationship.